

# Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations State-Local Technical Workgroup Report

For OLWMC Monthly Meeting: Nov 17, 2022

## General Update:

Since the last OLWMC meeting, the State-Local workgroup met once to discuss the nutrient management provisions of Owasco’s proposed regulations. This was the second of three meetings on this topic. The meeting’s focus was on the language the State proposed for revisions.

## Summary of 11/4/2022 Meeting: Nutrient Management #2

The State agencies proposed the establishment of an Owasco Lake Agricultural Board to help coordinate efforts and increase transparency about progress being made in the watershed. Local workgroup members agreed that the Board concept would be useful. The group discussed the need to increase participation in Department of Agriculture and Markets’ (AGM) Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program and the need to increase capacity of Cayuga and Tompkins Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Inadequate funding to incentivize farmers was identified as a barrier to AEM participation. The group also mentioned the high barrier to entry to become an agricultural planner.

The revisions proposed by the State agencies were not fully supported by the workgroup members. Some local workgroup members wanted more details about why the 2020 proposed regs could not move forward as written. Ultimately, it was decided that State agency legal teams need to provide input on nutrient management, pesticides and variances provisions to facilitate workgroup deliberations on these topics.

## Revised Meeting Schedule:

State Agency Legal Meetings for Pesticide, Nutrient Management & Variances	November and December 2022 (if necessary)
Follow up with State-Local Workgroup	December 2022

## Revised Overall Process Timeline:

- State Interagency Workgroup meets with Owasco Technical Committee – June 2022
- Series of State-Local Workgroup meeting - June to Jan 2023
- DOH publishes proposed amendments to WRRs- Mar 2023
- Three-month public comment period- Jun 2023
- DOH submits response to comments- Aug 2023
- DOH publishes amendments to WRRs - Sep/Oct 2023